

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ABU DH 00167 151127Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AF-08 /026 W
-----151133Z 055282 /15

O R 151000Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
SECSTATE WASHDC 5483
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 0167

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: BEXP TC
SUBJ: MARINE EXPOSITION TO NEAR EAST PROMOTER VISITS ABU DHABI

REF: (A) 76 STATE 311941 (NOTAL), (B) 76 ABU DHABI 3525 (NOTAL),
(C) ALGIERS 0119 (NOTAL).

1. MR. GUY WILLETS, GENIAL PRODUCER OF MOVIES AND
PLASTICS, VISITED ABU DHABI JAN. 13 AND 14 TO DISCUSS
WITH "THE AMBASSADOR AND FIRST TEAM" HIS PROPOSED
MARINE EXHIBITION TO THE NEAR EAST (REF A). ALTHOUGH
REF B POINTED OUT THAT TIMING OF VISIT MADE
NO SENSE, HE ARRIVED AT 2325 THURSDAY, JAN. 13
WITHOUT VISA OR PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED HOTEL ROOM
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ACCORDING TO MR. WILLETS, TRIP WAS UNDERTAKEN HASTILY
WITHOUT MUCH ADVANCE PLANNING BECAUSE SECRETARY
KISSINGER IS INTERSTED. ALSO, MR. WILLETS INFORMED
EMBASSY THAT SHIP VISIT WOULD BE IOGA EXCURSION.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFF (SKELETON
FIRST TEAM MUSTERED FOR FRIDAY VISITORS), WILLETS

EXPANDED ON PROPOSAL WHICH HE AVERRED HAD MET WITH WARM WELCOME IN PREVIOUS STOPS. EMBASSY ABU DHABI RESPONDED WITH RESTRAINED ENTHUSIASM INSPIRED BY SLAP-DASH PLANNING OF PRESENT TRIP AND SKETCHINESS OF HIS FUTURE PLANS. IF CAREFUL ADVANCE WORK FOR BUSINESS CONTACTS IS NOT DONE IN ABU DHABI BEFORE ARRIVAL, WE TOLD HIM VOYAGE WOULD BE ONLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE CRUISE FOR 100 EXECUTIVES.

3. COMMENT: AS EMBASSY STATED IN REF B, WE ARE HAPPY TO COOPERATE IN WORKING TO MAKE SHIP VISIT FIRST CLASS OPERATION. IDEA IS WORTH SUPPORTING. WHETHER WILLETTS PLANS TO PAY ENOUGH ATTENTION TO NUTS AND BOLTS IS AS YET UNANSWERED QUESTION. HOWEVER, FACT THAT HE BLITHELY CREDITS QUOTE GUARDIAN ANGEL UNQUOTE FOR HIS FELICITIOUS RECEPTION THUS FAR IS NOTABLE.

4. ACTIONS TAKEN BY ABU DHABI:

(1) WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO PASS INFO PARA TWO REF C TO WILLETTS.

(2) WE TOLD WILLETTS THAT ABSENCE OF SAUDI VISA PROBABLY PRECLUDED ENTRY TO SAUDI ARABIA. WE SUGGESTED THAT HE CONTACT U.S. EMBASSY IN MANAMA ON SUNDAY, JAN. 16 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. WILLETTS SAYS LAST TIME HE WAS IN SAUDI, HEAD OF SAUDIA ARRANGED VISA. ALTHOUGH WILLETTS IS RECONCILED TO NOT GETTING TO DHAHRAN, EMBASSY ABU DHABI SUGGESTS THAT BOTH WILLETTS AND CONGEN WOULD ENJOY VISIT. (OFFER THAT HE IS MAKING TO U.S. CORPORATIONS TO ATTRACT SUPPORT SHOWS DHAHRAN AS SHIP STOP.)

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(D) WILLETTS SAID THAT HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN GOING TO TRIPOLI BECAUSE OF MERCURIAL ATTITUDES VIS-A-VIS AMERICAN AND THAT ALGIERS, RABAT AND CASABLANCA (ONLY THREE CONFIRMED HOTELS ON TRIP) DID NOT OVERLY INTERESTED HIM EITHER, ALTHOUGH STATE AND COMMERCE WISH HIM TO GO. WE ADVISED HIM TO NOTIFY POST IF HE FINALLY DECIDES TO CANCEL.
DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ABUDH00167
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770016-0230
Format: TEL
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770149/aaaabqfo.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c72171d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 311941, 76 ABU DHABI 3525, 77 ALGIERS 119
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3589246
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARINE EXPOSITION TO NEAR EAST PROMOTER VISITS ABU DHABI
TAGS: BEXP, TC
To: MANAMA DHAHRAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c72171d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009